

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Previously presented): A powder composition comprising at least one fat-soluble vitamin dispersed in a matrix consisting of an emulsion-forming composition selected from the group consisting of a natural polysaccharide gum, a mixture of polysaccharide gums, a protein, a mixture of proteins, and mixtures thereof, wherein the fat-soluble vitamin is present in the powder composition in the form of solid droplets having an average diameter of about 80 to about 120 nanometers (nm) and wherein the fat-soluble vitamin is present in the powder composition in the amount of from about 10% to about 30% by weight.

Claim 2. (Cancelled).

Claim 3. (Currently amended): A The powder composition according to claim 1 wherein the polysaccharide gum is isolated from the group consisting of plants, animals and microbial sources.

Claim 4. (Currently amended): A The powder composition according to claim 3 wherein the polysaccharide gum is selected from the group consisting of exudate gums, seaweed gums, seed gums, microbial gums, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 5. (Currently amended): A The powder composition according to claim 3 wherein the polysaccharide gum is selected from the group consisting of gum arabic, flaxseed gum, ghatti gum, tamarind gum, arabinogalactan, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 6. (Currently amended): A The powder composition according to claim 5 wherein the polysaccharide gum is gum arabic.

Claim 7. (Currently amended): A The powder composition according to claim 1 wherein the protein is isolated from a plant or an animal source.

Claim 8. (Currently amended): A The powder composition according to claim 7 wherein the protein is selected from the group consisting of sunflower proteins, soy-bean proteins, cotton seed proteins, peanut proteins, rape seed proteins, milk proteins, blood proteins, egg proteins, gelatine, crosslinked gelatine, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 9. (Currently amended): A The powder composition according to claim 8 wherein the protein is gelatine.

Claim 10. (Currently amended): A The powder composition according to claim 1 wherein the fat-soluble vitamin is selected from the group consisting of vitamin E or its esters, vitamin A or its esters, vitamin K (phytomenadione), vitamin D₃ (cholecalciferol), and mixtures thereof.

Claim 11. (Currently amended): A The powder composition according to claim 10 wherein the fat-soluble vitamin is selected from the group consisting of vitamin E acetate, vitamin A acetate, vitamin A palmitate, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 12. (Currently amended): A The powder composition according to claim 1 wherein the ratio of fat-soluble vitamin to matrix component is from about 1:99 to about 3:1.

Claim 13. (Currently amended): A The powder composition according to claim 12 wherein the ratio of fat-soluble vitamin to matrix component is from about 1:8 to 1:1.

Claim 14. (Currently amended): A The powder composition according to claim 1 wherein the composition comprises ~~from about 10 to about 30 % by weight of a fat-soluble vitamin and~~ from about 60 to 85% by weight of a matrix component, based on the total weight of all the components present in the composition.

Claim 15. (Currently amended): A The powder composition according to claim 14 wherein the composition has a moisture content of about 1-4% by weight.

Claim 16. (Cancelled).

Claim 17. (Currently amended): A The powder composition according to claim 1, which is formed into a tablet.

Claims 18-27. (Cancelled).

Claim 28. (New) The powder composition according to claim 1 wherein the emulsion-forming composition is an oil-in water emulsion-forming composition.

Claim 29. (New): A powder composition comprising at least one fat-soluble vitamin dispersed in a matrix of an emulsion-forming composition selected from the group consisting of a natural polysaccharide gum, a mixture of polysaccharide gums, a protein, a mixture of proteins, and mixtures thereof, wherein the fat-soluble vitamin is present in the powder composition in the form of solid droplets, wherein the powder composition is produced by a process comprising:

(a) combining water with a matrix component selected from the group consisting of a natural polysaccharide gum, a mixture of polysaccharide gums, a protein, a mixture of proteins, and mixtures thereof, to form a solution;

(b) adding a fat-soluble vitamin to the solution to form a crude emulsion, wherein the fat-soluble vitamin is added in an amount to provide from about 10% to about 30% by weight fat-soluble vitamin in the powder composition;

(c) emulsifying the crude emulsion at a temperature of from about 5° C to about 75° C at a pressure of from about 10,000 psi (about 680 bar) to about 60,000 psi (about 4080 bar), to obtain an emulsion in which the droplets have an average diameter of about 70 to about 200 nm; and

(d) drying the emulsion to obtain the powder composition.

30. (New): The powder composition according to claim 29, wherein the crude emulsion formed has a solids content of from about 30%(wt) to about 50%(wt).

31. (New): The powder composition according to claim 29, further comprising mixing the crude emulsion prior to emulsifying, to provide a crude emulsion having droplets which are about 1500 nm or less.

32. (New): The powder composition according to claim 29, wherein the emulsifying is performed to obtain an emulsion in which the droplets have an average diameter of from about 80 to about 120 nm.

33. (New): The powder composition according to claim 29, wherein the emulsifying occurs at a pressure of from about 20,000 psi (about 1,360 bar) to about 35,000 psi (about 2380 bar).

34. (New): The powder composition according to claim 29, wherein the emulsifying occurs at a pressure of about 25,000 psi (about 1,700 bar).

35. (New): The powder composition according to claim 29 wherein the emulsion-forming composition is an oil-in water emulsion-forming composition.